127. Formation of Committees for the efficient management of Devaswoms.

Mr. K. M. Thandavamurtin Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) spoke of the desirability of associating the people in the administration of the Devaswoms in the State. In Nanjinad, many of the Devaswoms came into existence through the munificence of the religiously minded people of the locality and, in several instances, large endowments had been made by the founders. Early records showed that, before the year 987 M. E. when the Government assumed the management of private Devaswoms, those institutions were looked after by the people in the best possible manner. Whatever the justification for bringing them under the State management at the time, it could not be said with any degree of certainty that the object of the endowments had been fulfilled or that the whole income derived from the endowments was being spent for the purposes for which the endowments had been made. The Member said that the annual income from the Devaswom properties in 1048 as given in the Administration Report for that year should have increased several-fold in later years. A large income was also received from several Devaswoms under the head of 'offerings'. The people had an interest in seeing whether the income from Devaswoms was used for their benefit. At present, the responsibility in such matters rested with the Revenue Department. The Tahsildar, who was the head of the Revenue Department in a taluk, had little or no time to look to the proper conduct of the affairs of the Devaswoms in his taluk owing to his multifarious duties in connection with the revenue and magisterial work. The low-paid subordinates who were in immediate charge of the Devaswoms did as they liked and their actions were not scrutinised by the higher authorities. As a result, the affairs of many Devaswoms were being grossly mismanaged. That state of things would not have come to exist, if the people of the locality had a voice in the matter and were entrusted with the management of the Devaswoms as in British India and other places. Such an arrangement might also prove to be the training ground to the people in the management of local affairs. The Tahsildars when divested of Devaswom work would be able to devote greater attention to their revenue and magisterial duties. The Member, therefore, suggested the formation of a Committee in each locality in Nanjinad for the management of the affairs of the Devaswoms therein, or at least for the supervision of the conduct of their affairs. The members of the Committee should be selected for a fixed term from among the leading men of the locality. The Committee should be given full powers of administration in respect of the Devaswoms, subject to the control of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.—(*Concluded*).

128. Relief of distress.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that there was wide-spread distress in the land and that the relief measures adopted had not gone sufficiently far to help the people from getting over their misery. He then objected to the order of Government prohibiting the transport of paddy from one Division to another in the State, as such an order was against the principles of political economy. The order had already created great confusion among the people, especially in South Travancore where it had affected the ryots considerably. It was the merchants who were benefited. The Member was of opinion that, as far as possible, all restrictive laws should be dispensed with. The Member then submitted that the problem of supply of food stuffs was a serious one and that the Government had to look ahead in such matters and provide for all facilities being given to increase the output of the lands. Large numbers of School Final men were being turned out every year and they were wandering in quest of appointments. It would not be possible for Government to provide for all of them. As a remedy for all the economic ills the country was suffering from, the Member suggested the introduction of technical and industrial education. Industries like weaving should be encouraged. More money should be provided for better work being turned out by the Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Improvement Loans Regulation should be so amended and worked as to enable the poor ryots to fully avail themselves of its provisions. The annual

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allotment for such loans should be liberal. The scope of the Regulation should be extended to loans for the development of industries. The condition of the labouring classes was very poor, and for their benefit, poor houses and orphanages should be established; a system of Old Age Insurance should also be instituted. The sanitation of the town of Trivandrum should be looked into and experts invited to examine the condition of the health of the town and collect statistics about the principal diseases. Government should offer better encouragement to systems of treatment other than Allopathy, such as Ayurveda and Chintamani. The Medical and Sanitary Departments should be amalgamated. The Member then complained about insufficient supervision of the work of medical officers by the Durbar Physician and suggested the appointment of District Medical Officers with additional powers of control over the other Medical Officers in the same District. A Committee of Visitors to the various medical institutions was also recommended. The number of Medical institutions should be increased and larger grants allowed to the department. In conclusion, the Member submitted that, after official reports had been called for and obtained on the representations of Members of the Assembly, the opinions of the Members who made the representations should also be invited before finally disposing of the reports.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

129. Concessions to be granted by Government to the people of Chengannur taluk as a measure of relief from the present distress.

Mr. A. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) represented that the bulk of the paddy required for consumption in the taluk could be produced in the taluk itself, if the *eata* forests and swampy lands within the Ranni and Kumbazha *pakuthies* were given to the ryots for cultivation. The subject had been discussed in previous sessions of the Assembly, but the request was not granted. The Member pointed out that such low-lying and swampy lands were devoid of any tree growth or other produce. He, therefore, suggested that the following steps be taken to bring the lands under wet cultivation.

i. *Eata* lands and swamps not exceeding 1,000 acres in extent should be measured out and set apart for cultivation for a period not exceeding 3 years.

ii. A Committee consisting of at least 5 members of the Taluk Samajam should be specially deputed to fix the assessment on the lands, at a rate not exceeding Rs. 2 per acre.

iii. The Committee should get the lands cultivated by the agriculturists on lease or *varam*, and the paddy harvested should be sold in the taluk itself at a rate not exceeding $3\frac{1}{2}$ *fanams* per *para*.

iv. Any savings left after payment of the tax and expenses of cultivation should be invested as a fund in the Savings Bank for the relief of famine in the taluk.

Similar arrangements should be made in other parts of the State also.

The Member then submitted that, in the absence of a maximum *tharavila* for *puduval* lands in the Ranni and Kumbazha *pakuthies*, the Revenue authorities were realising exorbitant rates, without any regard to the quality of the soil. He prayed that, in view to extend the area under cultivation, it be ruled that the rate of *tharavila* fixed by G. O. No. 8764/L. R., dated the 2nd November 1915, for the Ranni and Kumbazha *pakuthies*, *viz.*, Rs. 5 per acre, should not, under any circumstances, be exceeded.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

130. Government and the interior parts of the State.

Mr. K. I. Kochippan Mappila (Member, Nominated) complained that, compared to the towns, the needs of the interior parts of the State were not being satisfactorily attended to by the various departments. Owing to the silting up of

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